

REMARKS

In the action of August 27, 2009, the examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kuo in view of Meyer, in view of either Gjertsen or Flick *et al.*

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 first to specify that the two channels defined by the mating grooves extend to the bristle plate. Further, claim 1 specifies extending elements which mate with the stem body portion to form a fluid-tight relationship between the core member and the stem body, maintaining separation of the fluids in the first and second stem channels.

First, applicant repeats his objection to the examiner's statement that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kuo by providing grooves therein that correspondent to the grooves in Meyer. As previously stated, the examiner has provided no evidence that such a structure is obvious. The references to Gjertsen and Flick do not provide such evidence. Both of them are directed toward completely unrelated art and further do not suggest or teach a structure involving an inner core member and an outer member which have mating grooves to form channels. The examiner's statement with respect to obviousness is thus complete speculation. The key structural concept is not necessarily the shape of the resulting channel, *i.e.* square or round or any other shape, but rather that there are grooves in both an inner core member and an outer stem body which together define separate channels which extend the length of the stem to the bristle plate. It is this structural concept which distinguishes applicant's invention over the combination of Kuo and Meyer and there is no evidence to suggest that such a combination is obvious. Hence, for that reason alone, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the combination of Kuo and Meyer, even with the addition of Flick and Gjertsen.

Applicant has also amended claims 1 and 11 to clarify that the defined channels extend all the way to the bristle plate, such that fluids are delivered to the bristle plate through the two channels. Nothing in Kuo suggests grooves and particularly grooves which extend all the way to the bristle plate. The combination of Kuo and Meyer thus cannot accomplish the

desired objective of the claims, providing two separate channels all the way to the bristle plate. Still further, claim 1 has been amended to specify the use of extending elements to produce a fluid-tight connection, separating the two channels. There is no teaching of Kuo of such elements which establish a fluid-tight connection between the core member and the stem body, extending all the way to the bristle plate, so that the fluids in the two channels are maintained separate from each other all the way to the bristle plate.

Hence, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited references. Since claims 3-10 and 12 are dependent on the above independent claims, those claims are also allowable.

Hence, allowance of the application is now respectfully requested.

Any fees which may be due for this amendment can be charged to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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